

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

28. (new) A terminal coupled to a control apparatus having a database via a network and a storage medium having a unique ID information and storing attribute information, the terminal comprising:

a unit that reads out the ID information from the storage medium;

a unit that transmits the ID information to the control apparatus;

a unit that receives information which has been stored in the database and was retrieved based on the ID information;

a temporary database;

a unit that stores some of the pieces of ID information and some of the pieces of stored information that have been stored in the database and are associated with at least one attribute information in the temporary database;

wherein the unit that reads out the ID information further reads out the attribute information from the storage medium, and checks whether the ID information is stored in the temporary database, and if the ID information is not stored in the temporary database, the terminal executes the steps of:

retrieving ID information and stored information associated with the attribute information from the database of the control apparatus; and

updating the temporary database by using the information retrieved from the control apparatus.

29. (new) The terminal according to claim 28 further comprising a unit that displays the retrieved stored information associated with the retrieved ID information.

30. (new) The terminal according to claim 28 wherein:

the storage medium further stores authentication information for authenticating the ID information;

the unit that reads out ID information further reads out the authentication information from the storage medium; and

the unit that transmits further transmits the authentication information with the ID information, to have the validity of the ID information checked on the basis of the authentication information.

31. (new) In a system having a terminal and a control apparatus, the control apparatus retrieving stored information in association with unique ID information of a storage medium stored therein, the terminal comprising:

a reader that reads out unique ID information of the storage medium and attribute information, which is associated with a plurality of ID information including the unique ID information from the storage medium;

a communication interface that communicates with the control apparatus;

a temporary database; and

a control unit,

wherein the control unit checks whether or not the attribute information is being stored in the temporary database, and if the attribute information is not stored in the temporary database:

transmits the attribute information to the control apparatus;

receives a set including at least one combination of ID information and stored information, both of which are associated with the transmitted attribute information, each in the set is associated with the same attribute information;

stores the set into the temporary database, and

retrieves the stored information from the temporary database, the stored information being associated with the ID information read out from the storage medium; and

if the attribute information is stored in the temporary database, retrieves stored information from the temporary database, the stored information being associated with the ID information read out from the storage medium.

32. (new) The terminal according to claim 31 further comprising:

a transmitter that transmits electromagnetic energy to the storage medium for generating power therein; and

a receiver that receives the ID information and the attribute information, both of which are sent from the storage medium powered by the transmitted energy.

33. (new) The terminal according to claim 31 further comprising a display unit and wherein the control unit causes the display unit to display the information retrieved from the temporary database.

34. (new) The terminal according to claim 31 further comprising:
a check unit that checks the validity of the ID information on the bases of authentication information read out along with the ID information and the attribute information; and

wherein the reader reads out the authentication information from the storage medium along with the ID information and the attribute information,

wherein the control unit, if the validity of the authentication information is checked, carries out the temporarily storing, the transmitting and updating.

35. (new) A terminal being used in a system that has the terminal and a control apparatus, the control apparatus storing information to be stored in association with unique ID information of a storage medium stored therein, the terminal comprising:

a reader that reads out unique ID information of the storage medium and attribute information, which is associated with a plurality of ID information including the ID information of the storage medium, from the storage medium;

an accepting unit that accepts input of information to be stored in the control apparatus in association with the ID information of the storage medium;

a communication interface that communicates with the control apparatus,

a temporary database, and

a control unit;

wherein the control unit, in the operation of storing,

temporarily stores the accepted information by associating with the ID information and the attribute information;

transmits a combination of the accepted information, the ID information and the attribute information to the control apparatus so that the combination is stored by associating with the attribute information in the control apparatus;

updates the temporary database, if a set including another combination of information and ID information associated with the same attribute information is already being stored in the temporary database, by adding the combination into the set.

36. (new) The terminal according to claim 35 further comprising:
a transmitter that transmits electromagnetic energy to the storage medium for generating power therein; and
a receiver that receives the ID information and the attribute information, both of which are sent from the storage medium powered by the transmitted energy.

37. (new) The terminal according to claim 36 further comprising:
a check unit that checks the validity of the ID information on the bases of authentication information read out along with the ID information and the attribute information; and
wherein the reader reads out the authentication information from the storage medium along with the ID information and the attribute information,
wherein the control unit, if the validity of the authentication information is checked, carries out the temporarily storing, the transmitting and updating.